

THE WATER QUESTION.

Continued from page 1.

was hitherto impossible to seek or drive them.

If the contention of the advocates of municipal ownership with regard to the danger existing in the present supply is true, and if they have a satisfactory substitute to offer, there is no question but what the unanimous vote in favor of municipal ownership that has characterized the small assemblages of the people who have gathered at the meetings held in the school buildings during the week ought to result in equal unanimity on the part of the whole town next Tuesday in favor of municipal ownership.

The second position of the municipalists, while not quite as shrewd and strong as the first position, is one that is in accord with popular feeling. The municipalists contend, and rightly, too, that the restrictions and restraints imposed on its customers by the Orange Water Company are too severe and exacting, and do not tend to the encouragement of improvements, and retard the progress of the town. Under municipal ownership, it is claimed, a more liberal policy can be followed. People who want meters can have them. Water mains can be extended, without limitations as to fire-hydrants, and water can be freely supplied for manufacturing and other purposes on more favorable terms than the Orange Water Company is now willing to concede.

The third position of the advocates of municipal ownership is that the Orange Water Company proposes a largely increase the rate to consumers, and the only way of escape from the approaching imposition is to purchase the plant, control the supply, and conduct the distribution of the water.

In justice to the conservative advocates of municipal ownership of the water plant, it must be said that they do not make any such claims along the line of saving large sums of money to the taxpayers if municipal ownership of the water plant goes into effect. In fact, they see no chance of immediate restriction in rates.

Now, all things considered, if the municipalists have conducted their campaign on a basis of incontrovertible facts, there is no question as to how the election ought to go next Tuesday. Along the lines set forth above, nearly all the people of the town are of one accord.

But allegations, assertions and assumptions are not infrequently used in the guise of facts in political campaigns, whether the issue be persons or policies. While the position of the advocates of municipal ownership is a strong one from the outside, the average voter will rightly desire to peek behind the brassworks, and ascertain the strength of the inside. Have the bombshells of the municipalists been loaded with facts or with allegations, assertions and assumptions that can be penetrated and dissolved?

Now, in the first place, with regard to the source of supply. The people of Bloomfield may as well understand now, as well as two years from now, the East Jersey Water Company expects to supply this town with water for the next fifteen months and for a long period after that. "Impudent assurance," exclaims an irate municipalist. Perhaps so, but calmly look the situation in the face. When the East Jersey Company officials complacently say they are going to continue to supply Bloomfield with water, they are viewing the situation from a higher and clearer point of view than it is possible for any municipalist or anti-municipalist to attain.

The municipalist party claims that there are now four sources of supply open to the people of this town when over the town gets into a position to make a contract. These are the West Jersey Water Company, the Eagle Rock Water Company, the West Summit Water Company and the city of East Orange.

The first two of the above companies are said to exist on paper only and would have to procure franchises before being able to enter into contracts. The West Jersey Company would have to cross the East Jersey Company's territory, Montclair, to get here. The West Summit Water Company would have to get right of way through Orange or Montclair, and the possibility of East Orange having water to sell is remote, as that city is likely to have a law suit of great magnitude on its hands with respect to its new source of supply. The East Jersey Company is well aware of the existing difficulties surrounding the

proposed water companies that contemplate selling water here, and also of the difficulties that will be created whenever any of the companies attempt to encroach upon what the East Jersey Company deems its territory. Blessed with a marvellous degree of foresight, and with no small amount of power with which to shape destinies, it is not surprising to find the East Jersey officials indulging in confident predictions.

The East Jersey people stoutly deny, of course, that danger lurks in the water that the company supplies, and they invite an analysis of the water, and it is claimed that Montclair is using, and will continue using the same water supply that Bloomfield now uses, and will use. Thus it is apparent that between the advocates of municipal ownership here and the officials of the East Jersey Water Company there is a great divergence as to facts.

As to the second proposition of the advocates of municipal ownership of the water plants, and which relates to alleged restrictive restraints and restrictions imposed by the Orange Water Company, the advocates of municipal ownership promise relief and freedom from all such restraints except such as are in accord with a liberal administration of the water department.

The purely business aspect of the proposal for a change in policy is involved in this feature of the controversy, and that is the administration of the water business. No one will deny but what the most severe and rigid economy was enforced by the Orange Water Company, and the company never let an opportunity pass to turn a penny into its treasury. It has often been asserted that the Orange Water Company derived a gigantic revenue from Bloomfield. The company has exhibited a financial statement that confutes such an impression and shows a loss instead of a profit.

Here again is a divergence as to facts. The municipalists declare that the water company's statements to the amount of water used in Bloomfield and as to the loss from business done here are untrue, and just here arises a situation that is inexplicable. If the Orange Water Company has a plant in Bloomfield that is a mint in making money, why is it that the company is willing to part with the entire bonanza for less than the actual cost of the plant? It is glad to get \$90,000 for its plant, and there are those who claim to know something about the water situation who say that the water company would not say no to \$60,000.

The probability is that the Orange Water Company is being squeezed out of existence by a larger corporation, namely, the East Jersey Company. If the East Jersey Company was able to make the water business unprofitable to the Orange Water Company, despite the rigid economy and keenness of that company, where has the town of Bloomfield any chance to cope with the East Jersey Company in the water business? The man who sells the goods generally owns the scales; the man who sells the water owns the meter, and reads it, too. The water meter on upper Broad street that indicates a use of water here sufficient to make an aquarium of the entire town may have driven the Orange Water Company out of business, but it is not likely that it will be within the province of the people of Bloomfield to rectify that meter.

The advocates of municipal ownership in their recent campaign work have failed to touch very materially on two important points. One of these is, What is it going to cost the town to conduct a water department? How many clerks will be needed? What amount of office equipment will be required? How many inspectors will be required to keep track of the water consumed and possible wastage and evasion of ordinances? And how many men will be required for new work and repair work?

After taking into consideration the above items of expense and adding them to the interest and sinking fund and depreciation allowances, what margin of profit is there left to be applied to a reduction of taxes or in water rates to private consumers?

Another point about which the advocates of municipal ownership have failed to give any definite information is the extent of water mains, or as it is termed, new work.

There is now before the Town Council a number of applications for extension of the water mains. On account of the water contract having expired and negotiations for purchase under way, these applications could not be acted upon,

All Stuffed Up

That's the condition of many sufferers from catarrh, especially in the morning. Great difficulty is experienced in clearing the head and throat.

No wonder catarrh causes headache, impairs the taste, smell and hearing, pollutes the breath, deranges the stomach and affects the appetite.

To cure catarrh, treatment must be constitutional—alterative and tonic. "I was afflicted with catarrh. I took medicines of different kinds, giving each a fair trial; but gradually grew worse until I could hardly hear, taste or smell. I then concluded to try Hood's Sarsaparilla, and after taking five bottles I was cured and have not had any return of the disease since." EDWARD FORBES, Lebanon, Kan.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Cures catarrh—it soothes and strengthens the mucous membrane and builds up the whole system.

but the petitioners are given to understand that if municipal ownership carries the applications will receive immediate attention, and water mains can be extended as rapidly as needs require, and without any handicap limitations as to hydrants. This is all very well, but there is great doubt about the power of the municipalists to carry out the programme.

The Town Council cannot make any appropriations of public money for any purpose whatever, except such as is specified by statute. The Council cannot build a new road, or put down a sewer, or lay a sidewalk, only according to legally prescribed methods, and the cost of the work cannot be put in the general tax levy, but must be paid for by the property immediately benefited. It is not known that any special provision is made by law for the extension of water mains. Perhaps it can be done by special appropriations, but as the law stands at present it might require a vote of the people to sanction the appropriations.

The advocates of municipal ownership have also failed in the course of their speeches to touch upon the legal obligations that the town assumes in launching out as a purveyor of water. An interesting case before the courts this past week has awakened considerable anxiety as to the liability of those who obligate themselves to furnish water for fire protection purposes. An Asbury Park lumber firm got a judgment of upwards of \$31,000 against a water company in the southern part of this State for failing to furnish a standard water pressure on the occasion of a fire.

While from certain standpoints the advocates of municipal ownership have made out a strong case on their side, yet there are grave defects in it. The people who are going to determine the question at issue by their votes next Tuesday should carefully weigh the question in their minds before voting.

Post Office Robbed.

A porter found in the toilet room of the Cortlandt street ferry house in New York early Thursday morning 100 letters addressed to persons in Glen Ridge. The letters had been opened and their finding disclosed the fact that there had been a robbery in the Glen Ridge post office. The post office inspectors had heard nothing of the robbery at Glen Ridge, and after the letters were examined Inspector Tom Myers communicated by telephone with the Glen Ridge postmaster. Myers didn't tell of the finding of the letters, but he did ask if a burglar had been around recently. The postmaster reported that a burglar had visited Glen Ridge on Tuesday night, but had got only five or six cents for his trouble. Postmaster Moritz was not aware that any letters were stolen, and there had been no inquiries made at his office about expected or missing letters.

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Thousands of Matchless Money Saving Inducements.

No pre-inventory movement anywhere to compare with it—enormous lines of all kinds of wantable merchandise at prices frequently below those paid by the manufacturers for unmade materials. The losses taken are almost incalculable—every thought of profit is abandoned, and all other considerations lost sight of in a determination to accomplish an immediate clearing of too slowly moving stocks all over the store.

Inconsistency may or may not be a jewel, but while striving to rid ourselves of a surplus we have made several remarkable recent purchases, believing that the bargains involved are sufficiently great to make their stay here a short one.

Sale of New Embroideries

With larger assortments than any formerly shown, and incidentally many finer lines than we've ever carried before, it is believed that the prestige gained during years of better value giving will not only be held, but materially added to this season. Having placed unusually heavy import orders months ago, and later acquired a number of underpriced lots and sample pieces, we are prepared to offer bargains so unusual that there's bound to be some fast selling.

Wide Embroideries—With beading top—used for making French corset covers, 14 inches wide, worth 25c per yard, special 15c at.....

All-over Embroideries—Neat and showy design on nainsook or swiss—20 inches wide, worth 75c and 98c per yard, special 49c at.....

All-over Embroideries—Cambric, nainsook and swiss in open and close patterns, 20 inches wide, worth 1.25 to 1.75 per yard, at..... 98c

Fine Flouncings—45 and 27 inch flouncings, with hemstitched, scalloped and ruffled edges, worth 1.25 to 1.98 per yard, special at..... 98c

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S HANDKERCHIEFS.

A quantity of all-linen hemstitched hand embroidered initial handkerchiefs, including all letters at from one-half to one-quarter the usual retail price for same values. Choice of wide or narrow hems, slightly imperfect, 25c and 50c kinds, while they last..... 12c

WOMEN'S ALL-LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS.

There are not enough of them in this assortment to last for any great length of time. Pure linen hemstitched and hand-embroidered, very sheer fabrics, a small knot or equally trifling imperfection, regularly worth 25c. Number to each customer limited..... 12c

Muslinwear Sale Continued. | **L. BAMBERGER & CO., Newark.** | Muslinwear Sale Continued.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL STATEMENT

OF THE

BLOOMFIELD BUILDING & LOAN ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 14, 1903.

Receipts.		Disbursements.	
Cash in Bank	\$3,977 25	7th Series Matured Withdrawals	\$22,600 00
Dues	\$28,795 50	Stock Loans	15,654 37
Interest	8,875 86	Bond and Mortgage	6,150 00
Fines	236 76	Bills Payable	29,210 31
Premiums	10 48	Salary Treasurer	200 00
Bills Payable	37,919 60	" Secretary	325 00
Paid on Stock Loans	5,050 00	" Clerk	24 00
Paid on Bond and Mortgage Loans	24,375 00	Taxes, Insurance, etc.	1,342 29
Sale of Real Estate	2,500 00	Due on Loans of 1902	1,416 38
Insurance	8 00	Dues returned	10 00
Rents	1,143 13	Cash in Bank	1,652 06
	\$107,584 41		\$107,584 41

Assets.		Liabilities.	
Cash in Bank	\$1,652 06	58 Shares Series A	\$1,124 96
Dues	\$494 00	130 " " 8	21,666 38
Interest	402 93	86 " " 9	14,572 37
Fines	437 59	122 " " 10	17,545 25
	1,334 52	185 " " 11	22,787 34
Stock Loan	7,348 00	199 " " 12	20,682 14
Bond and Mortgage Loan	140,640 00	182 " " 13	9,543 88
	147,988 00	18 1/2 " " 14	12,647 39
Furniture	75 00	87 1/2 " " 15	9,729 50
Temporary Loans	70 59	191 " " 16	2,454 76
Real Estate	11,941 14	51 " " 17	7,510 35
		222 " " 18	1,655 33
		88 " " 19	5,645 40
		311 " " 20	1,662 21
		130 " " 21	3,844 96
		130 " " 22	799 40
		Bills Payable	4,000 00
		Due Borrowers	189 69
	\$163,061 31		\$163,061 31

The undersigned Auditing Committee hereby certify that they have examined the books of the Secretary, the securities in the hands of the Treasurer, have also made personal inquiry at the Bloomfield National Bank as to the balance standing to the credit of the Association, and find the same to conform to the foregoing accounts which are correct.

D. G. GARABRANT,
F. M. HINKLE,
HARRY L. OSBORNE, } Auditors.

December 26, 1903.

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MONDAY, FEB. 8, 1904.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SUBSCRIBE.

Meetings for Payment of Dues, Interest, and Loaning of Money are held on the evening of the Second Monday of Every Month, at No. 27 Broad Street.

ASK YOUR DOCTOR

What causes the majority of "the ills that flesh is heir to," and he'll say, Indigestion. Bloating, constipation and other bowel and stomach disorders, with attendant headaches, backaches and general debility, are but diverse effects of Indigestion.

LAXATIVE PHOSPHO-MINT

the new and better non-alcoholic tonic and alterative, removes the cause of indigestion, enriches the blood, stimulates the natural secretions, tones and invigorates the entire system. Invaluable for disorders of young children. Prevents Rheumatism and Malaria. **Tom's Tablets for Sale**—and the money refunded if results are not satisfactory. All druggists or by mail.

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Twine, All Colors, Bolts and Screws.

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